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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An actuator assembly including a motor having a body portion, a drive shaft, and a pinion directly fixed to the drive shaft to always rotate in unison with the drive shaft, the pinion drivingly engaging an array of gear teeth of a gear rack, the array of gear teeth having a first side adjacent the motor, and the gear rack is pivotally mounted via a pivot for movement about a pivot axis wherein said pivot axis is on a motor side of said array of gear teeth.

2. (Previously Presented) The actuator assembly as recited in claim 1 in which the pivot axis passes through the body portion.

3. (Previously Presented) The actuator assembly as recited in claim 1 in which the pivot axis is proximate an end of the motor remote from the pinion.

4. (Previously Presented) The actuator assembly as recited in claim 1 in which the gear rack includes at least one stop to limit movement of the rack relative to the body portion.

5. (Previously Presented) The actuator assembly as recited in claim 4 in which each stop engages the drive shaft.

6. (Previously Presented) The actuator assembly as recited in claim 5 in which each stop engages a portion of the drive shaft on the side of the pinion remote from the motor.

7. (Previously Presented) The actuator assembly as recited in claim 4 in which the drive shaft passes between the array of gear teeth and a guide portion proximate the gear teeth.

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8. (Previously Presented) The actuator assembly as recited in claim 7 in which the guide portion is supported by each stop.

9. (Previously Presented) The actuator assembly as recited in claim 1 which further includes a housing in which the motor is secured.

10. (Previously Presented) The actuator assembly as recited in claim 9 in which the pivot is mounted on the housing.

11. (Previously Presented) The actuator assembly as recited in claim 9 in which the pivot includes a boss of the gear rack to which in use a lever is attached.

12. (Previously Presented) The actuator assembly as recited in claim 11 in which the boss at least partially projects through the housing.

13. (Previously Presented) The actuator assembly as recited in claim 9 in which the drive shaft engages the housing.

14. (Previously Presented) The actuator assembly as recited in claim 9 in which the housing is substantially sealed.

15. (Previously Presented) The actuator assembly as recited in claim 9 in which the housing has at least a first and second part, the parts having co-operating cut-outs to provide for at least one end of the drive shaft.

16. (Previously Presented) The actuator assembly as recited in claim 1 in which the pivot is mounted on the body portion.

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17. (Previously Presented) An actuator assembly including a motor having a body portion, a drive shaft, and a pinion directly fixed to the drive shaft to always rotate in unison with the drive shaft, the pinion drivingly engaging an array of gear teeth of a gear rack with the gear rack mounted for movement on the body portion.

18. (Previously Presented) The actuator assembly as recited in claim 17 in which the motor is an electric motor.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) An actuator assembly comprising a motor having a body portion and a drive shaft, the drive shaft being drivably connected to a pinion, the pinion drivingly engaging an array of gear teeth of a gear rack pivotally mounted for movement about a pivot axis, the array of gear teeth having a first side adjacent the motor and at least one stop engaging the drive shaft to limit movement of the gear rack relative to the body portion.